

## **Q&A**

### **Deployment for Gustav**

**August 31, 2008**

**Q: Why personnel from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries?**

A: DGIF Law Enforcement personnel have expertise in search and rescue, swift water rescue, first responder, emergency response, etc.

DGIF has resources: boats, night vision goggles, GPS systems and expertise to operate on the water and in remote and difficult conditions. The Department is sending 27 boats.

DGIF officers assisted after Hurricane Katrina in the Mississippi gulf and understand the challenges of this environment.

Governor Kaine activated the Emergency Management Assistance Compact which made Virginia resources, including the VDGIF, available to assist.

**Q: What is the EMAC?**

A: The Emergency Management Assistance Compact is a national interstate mutual aid agreement that enables states to share resources during times of disaster. Governor Kaine activated the EMAC on Friday, August 29, 2008, to help states on the Gulf Coast prepare for and respond to potential impacts from Hurricane Gustav. As a result of the EMAC activation, many Virginia state agencies, localities and organizations identified and readied resources that can be deployed and standing by to respond to additional requests as they are received.

**Q: How many VDGIF personnel went and what is their schedule?**

A: 30 conservation police officers from across Virginia and 2 wildlife workers departed for Louisiana Sunday morning, August 31, 2008. They are anticipated to arrive at approximately 1 p.m. on Monday, September 1, 2008.

**Q: Where are they headed in Louisiana?**

A: They will be staging in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, area with 100 Fish & Wildlife Officers from Louisiana.

**Q: How long will they be there?**

A: They are scheduled to be there until September 8, with two days of travel to return, however, this could be extended.

**Q: Where will they stay?**

A: Louisiana has made arrangements for a shelter for our personnel, however, our people are taking sleeping bags and provisions to be totally self-sufficient for four days after the hurricane makes landfall.

**Q: How much is this costing?**

A: Estimated cost is \$300,000 which will be reimbursed.

While this operation is costly and we do not wish this type of incident on others, this provides an opportunity for our folks to use this as a training exercise so that we will be better prepared to assist Virginians should a similar incident occur in the Commonwealth.

**Q: With this many of your law enforcement personnel away, does this impact your ability to cover your bases in Virginia?**

A: The 30 officers are from across Virginia. The officers who remained here are performing a valuable service by stepping up and providing necessary coverage.